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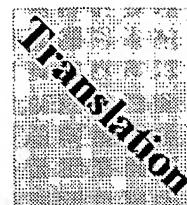
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT



WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)
Applicant's or agent's file reference 17614.7-S1899-31-ne		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/EP2004/003945	International filing date (day/month/year) 15.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 15.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC		
Applicant SSA SYSTEM-SPANN AG		

<p>1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</p>
<p>2. FURTHER ACTION</p> <p>If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.</p> <p>If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.</p> <p>For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>
<p>3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.</p>

Name and mailing address of the ISA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

the entire international application
 claims Nos. 14, 15, 19-22

because:

the said international application, or the said claims Nos. _____ relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. _____ are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

the claims, or said claims Nos. _____ are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

no international search report has been established for said claims Nos. 14, 15, 19-22

the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing does not comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions in that:

the written form	<input type="checkbox"/> has not been furnished <input type="checkbox"/> does not comply with the standard
the computer readable form	<input type="checkbox"/> has not been furnished <input type="checkbox"/> does not comply with the standard

the tables related to the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing, if in computer readable form only, do not comply with the technical requirements provided for in Annex C-bis of the Administrative Instructions.

See Supplemental Box for further details.

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Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has:
 paid additional fees
 paid additional fees under protest
 not paid additional fees
2. This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
 complied with
 not complied with for the following reasons:

See Supplemental Sheet

4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:

all parts
 the parts relating to claims Nos. 1-13, 16-18

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-13, 16-18</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>1-13, 16-18</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-13, 16-18</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Cited documents:

D1: DE 202 19 340 U1

The subject-matter of the independent claims 1 and 4 is novel and inventive.

D1 (see fig. 1) discloses the closest prior art for claims 1 and 4, wherein a quick-action cylinder has a conical recess (12) which serves for the controlled guidance of the feed nipple. However, this conical recess does not act with conical bevels on the front side of the feed nipple, as is defined in the present claim 1. A person skilled in the art will not find in the prior art any indication about the inclination of the front side of the feed nipple known from D1 so that the inclined conical bevels interact in the stressed state with a conical recess in the housing of the quick-action cylinder. For this reason, the subject-matter of claim 1 is novel and inventive. Said person skilled in the art will not find the characterizing features of claim 4 in the prior art either so that its subject-matter is novel and inventive. These inventions are new alternatives to the controlled

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

and centring guidance of a feed nipple into the recess of the quick-action cylinder.

Claims 2-3, 5-13 and 16-18 are dependent on claim 1 or 4 so that their subject-matter is also novel and inventive.

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Box No. VI	Certain documents cited		
1. Certain published documents (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.10)			
Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
EP-1 344 599-A	17.09.2003	12.02.2003	11.03.2002
2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 43bis.1 and 70.9)			
Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	

see Form 210

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Box IV

The various inventions are:

1. Claims 1-13, 16-18:

Quick-action cylinder according to the preamble of claim 1, wherein the front side of the feed nipple has conical bevels which interact with an assigned conical recess or conical tip, inclined in the opposite direction, in the housing of the quick-action cylinder.

Achieved object: centring assignment between the feed nipple and the housing of the quick-action cylinder.

2. Claims 14-15:

Quick-action cylinder according to the preamble of claim 1, wherein a capturing device for mechanically coupling the feed nipple to a reciprocating piston is arranged between the feed nipple and said reciprocating piston which is arranged in the interior of the quick-action cylinder.

Achieved object: reliable guidance of the feed nipple through the quick-action cylinder.

3. Claims 19-22:

Quick-action cylinder having a locking means, brought about by spring-loaded balls, of a machine shaft which engages through the housing of the quick-action cylinder.

Achieved object: high-precision positioning and securing of a machine shaft.

The common subject-matter of the first and second

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Supplemental Box

inventions is a quick-action cylinder according to the preamble of claim 1 for the controlled guidance of a feed nipple into the central receiving opening in the housing of the quick-action cylinder. Such a quick-action cylinder is not novel (see, for example, D1) so that the two inventions are not connected by a single common inventive idea.

The common subject-matter of the first and third inventions is a quick-action cylinder for locking a body such as a feed nipple or a shaft. Such a quick-action cylinder is not novel (see, for example, D1) so that the two inventions are not connected by a single common inventive idea.